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Agency Secretary  
Cal/EPA



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

April 21, 2004

Mr. Dave Bacharowski  
Assistant Executive Officer  
California Regional Water  
Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
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Los Angeles, CA 90013

### BIOREMEDIATION OF PERCHLORATE CONTAMINATED SOILS AT BOEING SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY (SSFL), VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Bacharowski:

This letter is a follow-up to our recent phone call in which we discussed the importance of allowing the Boeing Company (Boeing) to proceed with the bioremediation of perchlorate contaminated soils at the SSFL. Currently, this work is on hold pending your Board's adoption of the Waste Discharge Requirements at the May 2004 meeting.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) approved the Interim Measures (IM) for bioremediation at the SSFL on September 23, 2003. In addition, we approved the Final Work Plan for Biotreatment of Soil on March 5, 2004. We support this project for two primary reasons:

1. The IM will remove perchlorate in the environment from an area at the SSFL where the highest levels of perchlorate have been found.
2. The IM will eliminate threats to surface water from perchlorate in the Happy Valley drainage.

DTSC determined that biotreatment would be the best way to remediate the perchlorate contaminated soils. DTSC came to this conclusion based on the following factors:

1. Biotreatment has the potential to be used as a highly effective remedial alternative at other locations on the facility where perchlorate is found in soil and groundwater.

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2. Biotreatment is a green technology that uses naturally occurring microorganisms to take a highly toxic compound and transform it into safe chlorine ions and water.
3. Biotreatment will result in fewer impacts to the environment in comparison to simply removing the materials offsite, while minimizing diesel emissions both locally and regionally from the hundreds of trucks that would have to travel out of the region. In addition, the biotreatment would minimize the need for additional heavy machinery for the excavation in the building 359 area.
4. Onsite biotreatment will result in less danger on the roadways as this would involve fewer trucks traveling down the narrow winding roads on their way to a landfill.
5. Biotreatment is consistent with state and federal guidance that encourages sites to treat contamination onsite and minimize the amount of contamination that goes to landfills.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please include this letter as comments from DTSC on the Waste Discharge Requirements for Boeing SSFL. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Gerard Abrams at (916) 255-3600 or Mr. Ray Leclerc at (916) 255-3582.

Sincerely,

//Signed by//

James M. Pappas, P.E., Chief  
Northern California Permitting and  
Corrective Action Branch

cc: Mr. Steve Lafflam  
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